

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 6-12, and 15-19 were rejected as anticipated by WESTRE et al. 5,866,272. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The amended claims 1 provide, among other features, that one of the mutually overlapping ends is bent twice in opposite directions to form a Z-shape. This is shown, for example, in Figure 2 wherein one section (18, 20) of the bottom metal layer (13) is bent into a Z-shape above the other section (19) of the same bottom metal layer (13) and the opposing surfaces of the overlapping ends are bonded to one another.

WESTRE et al. do not disclose that overlapping ends are twice bent in opposite directions into a Z-shape as claimed, and thus the amended claims avoid the rejection under §102. WESTRE et al. do not disclose double bending at all; the ends are merely bent once into a curve.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Thomas W. Perkins/

Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP